United Nations S/2003/892

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 September 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 11 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the following statements issued on 11 September 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex):

(a) Statement to commemorate the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001;

(b) Statement on the situation in the Middle East.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

03-52288 (E) 180903

Annex to the letter dated 11 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement commemorating the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

On the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the European Union renews the expression of its deep sorrow and most heartfelt solidarity to the families of the victims and to the Government and people of the United States of America.

The heinous acts of terrorism that caused immense human suffering and huge material damage and losses in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania were perceived by European citizens as brutal attacks on the ideals and principles of freedom and peace, on the institutions of democracy and on their own security and way of life.

The European Union reacted to those tragic events with great determination and with a view to promoting the broadest possible international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. In this effort, the European Union has adopted a wide and significant set of measures and has participated most actively in the activities of the international forums, with particular regard to the United Nations, aimed at preventing and suppressing terrorism. Significant results have been achieved that have led, among other things, to arrests and trials of suspect terrorists, to the disruption of terrorist cells and to the freezing of financial assets and sources of funding.

The European Union has also promoted political dialogue with many countries and regional organizations to raise awareness of the need to adopt appropriate and effective legislative and other measures, both at the domestic and international levels, with the aim of eradicating terrorism, suppressing its sources and channels and financing and removing the conditions and modalities of its recruitment. Pursuing a comprehensive approach, promoting dialogue among cultures and civilizations and respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the fight against terrorism are key elements and an integral part of this wide-ranging commitment.

The European Union reaffirms its close solidarity with the United States and all other countries that have been the victims of terrorist acts and is as determined as ever to pursue its internal policies and its strategy of international cooperation designed to defeat terrorism.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the European Free-Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

Statement on the situation in the Middle East by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

[Original: English]

The European Union expresses its shock and dismay at the two suicide attacks that occurred on 9 September near the Tzrifin Israeli Defence Force base and in Jerusalem, which, once again, caused numerous deaths among Israeli citizens. The European Union extends its condolences to the families of the victims and solidarity to those injured and to the Government of Israel.

The European Union wishes to reaffirm its strongest condemnation of these two terrorist attacks as well as the organizations that planned and executed them. The resurgence of terrorist attacks is claiming an intolerable toll on innocent Israeli citizens, it is obstructing the efforts of the international community to restore peace in the region, and it is damaging the interests of the cause of the Palestinian people.

The European Union thus considers the authors of these acts as enemies of peace and strongly urges the Palestinian Authority to take all necessary concrete measures against those terrorist organizations that are opposed to any political dialogue and undermine all the efforts to restore hope and to bring peace, security and better conditions of life to the region.

It is in this context and in the framework of the global fight against terrorism that the European Union decided, on 5 and 6 September at the informal ministerial meeting of Riva del Garda, to begin procedures leading to the insertion of the political branch of Hamas in the European list of terrorist organizations. The European Union renews the Thessaloniki European Council appeal to all Palestinian organizations to declare an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.

The European Union takes note of the resignation of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and wishes to reiterate its support for the efforts of the Palestinian National Authority to relaunch the peace process, in the framework of the Quartet's road map. The European Union calls upon the new Prime Minister, Ahmed Qurei, to continue with determination on the same path and offers its full support.

The European Union urges the two parties to remain strongly committed to the need for an ongoing dialogue and for the implementation of the road map and, in this regard, to take the following measures:

- The Palestinian National Authority: forming a new Government; reorganizing its security forces; re-establishing public order and undertaking visible efforts to dismantle the terrorist organizations; implementing the reforms already started; and organizing free and transparent elections;
- The Israeli Government: withdrawing the army from the autonomous areas; putting an end to targeted killings; relieving the Palestinian people from the roadblocks and other restrictions imposed on them; and freezing all settlement activities and the building of the security wall along a track that jeopardizes a political solution to the conflict.

In order for these measures to be implemented effectively, the European Union reaffirms its commitment and the need for determined and coordinated action by the

international community. The upcoming ministerial meeting of the Quartet will be the appropriate forum in which to assess, as provided for in the road map, the performance of the parties in the implementation of the plan and in order to decide further steps needed to ensure effective and credible monitoring in the field.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the European Free-Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.